

HALE COUNTY

Honorable William A. Ryan

Hale County Courthouse
1001 Main St, Suite 36A
Greensboro, AL 36744
(334) 624-8563

Ashvin Parikh
Diane Banks
Mayor Morrison
Mike Fuller
Rita Harless
Stephen Moore
Mayor Johnnie B. Washington
Anne Bailey
Clinton Brasfield
Eva Bryant-Green
Joyce Jackson
Bobby Singleton

Larry Johnson
Robert Lake
Frank Stegall
Vangi Rose
Turner Sims
Leland Avery
Johnny Gladney
Richard McGill
Mayor Paul Owens
Mayor Stanley Hollie
Barbara Smith
Kelly Pariss-Barnes

Diane Abernathy
Towana Harris
Phil Poole
Sharon Jay
Sara Brazzell
Tracie Bates
Barron Lankster
Jack Martin
Rasheda McCalpine
Denise Shirley
Niko Phillips
Larry Johnson



Vista Volunteer: Natosha Mixon

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Effective Parental Involvement and Mentoring
2. Reduction in number of children using drugs and alcohol
3. Early Care and Education of Hale County Children Birth to Five

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Obesity

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Participate in health fairs to promote wellness and encourage dental care
- Seek funding to promote diabetes testing at health fairs
- Continue to advocate for healthier snack choices and drinks at public schools

Lack of Transportation/Insurance (none or underinsured)

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Educate parents about Kid-One Transport
- Provide applications/information regarding health insurance
- Provide parental education materials through mail-outs/handouts

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Reduce the availability of drugs and alcohol to children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop Programs to educate children and adults about trends in drug use and warning signs of drug use by children
- Develop a Drug Free Coalition
- Pursue funding for a county resource officer

Reduce the number of children without proper supervision

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop more after-school and community programs for youth.
- Develop more comprehensive after-school and summer recreation programs
- Provide more organized activities for school-aged children after school and in the summer hours

Increase Awareness of Domestic Violence

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Provide education to parents and children about domestic violence
- Provide access numbers to shelters and counseling
- Seek funding for local counseling through mental health, HERO, DHR, and /or Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Increase opportunities for gainful employment or entrance into post secondary institutions for at-risk youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Expand services provided through alternative approaches toward K-12 education
- Provide reading intervention personnel/strategies at all schools

Increase the number of students who successfully complete high school requirements

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Implement career exploration initiatives, intern programs, and job shadowing programs for middle and high school students
- Decrease dropout rate of incoming high school freshmen (ninth grade) by 5%.

Decrease the teen pregnancy rate in Hale County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Implement postponing sexual involvement program in elementary and middle schools
- Train teachers and educators to implement relationship and pregnancy prevention programs in high school.

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Ensure early screening, assessments, and intervention where necessary

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Increase distribution of Kidstuff Parenting Kits to parents of Hale County
- Plan and coordinate a campaign to promote early intervention strategies
- Sponsor a county wide early intervention campaign to educate the public of the benefit of screenings and assessments

Expand early learning opportunities for all Hale County children

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Identify all available resources for children of Hale County
- Identify and support expansion of available daycare facilities
- Expand number of available Pre-K classes

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Create an awareness of existing resources in the community

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Align partners to participate in community education
- Target and secure church and other outreach locations in the community
- Recruit volunteers for a train-the-trainer model to sustain community relationships

Enhance current relationships that provide food, shelter, clothing, and housing

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with HERO Family Service Director to identify children in school setting with uniform/clothing needs
- Work with community agencies such as Hale County housing center for housing and housing repairs
- Create connections between agencies of safety measures in Hale County

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Lack of Parental Involvement

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Recruit community volunteers for train-the-trainer
- Target families of young children for skills building workshops
- Recruit community partners

Adult Mentoring

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Initiate a system of adult mentoring programs in the county.
- Target families in subsidized housing and low-income areas
- Seek funding for adult mentoring and educational enrichment programs

Policy Recommendation

1. Provide information to ensure parents know the value of adequate health and dental care for the children of Hale County.
2. Review local sources providing after-school, nighttime, and weekend care for children.
3. Assist local committees through education and early detection.
4. Communicate more with agency representatives to ensure that proper information and referrals are given to parents of Hale County children.
5. Effective parental involvement and mentoring
6. Reduce number of children using drugs and alcohol.
7. Continue funding for transportation (Kids One program and others.
8. Fully fund Medicaid and ALL-Kids.
9. Increase availability of material and programs available to parents concerning childhood obesity and other eating disorders.